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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JOHN W. SIGLER,

Plaintiff,

v.

JORGE GONZALEZ, USAA
CASUALTY INSURANCE
COMPANY, INTERINSURANCE
EXCHANGE OF AUTOMOBILE
CLUB, IMPERIAL BODY SHOP, INC.,
PABLO GALVEZ, GREG TAYLOR,
MELISSA ORDELL, DANELLE
BUSHNELL, AMBER PETERSON (aka
AMBER PETERSON FORREST, aka
AMBER J. SCHNEIDER), KEVIN
KARAPOGOSIAN, JAMES SYRING,
RANDY TERMEER, JOHN BOYLE
and DOES 1 to 99, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:22-cv-02325-CJC-JDEx

(Honorable Cormac J. Carney)

**DEFENDANT USAA CASUALTY
INSURANCE COMPANY'S
MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON
THE PLEADINGS ON
PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT, OR IN THE
ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO
COMPEL APPRAISAL**

[Filed Concurrently with (i) Declaration
of Melissa Ordell; (ii) Declaration of
Vivian I. Orlando; and (iii) [Proposed]
Order]

Hearing:

Date: February 26, 2024

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Courtroom: 9 B

Discovery C/O: April 22, 2024

Motion C/O: June 17, 2024

Trial Date: August 27, 2024

**TO THE HONORABLE COURT, PLAINTIFF, ALL OTHER
PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on February 26, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Courtroom 9 B of the United States Courthouse, located at 411 West 4th Street, Santa Ana, California 92701-4516, Defendant USAA Casualty Insurance Company (“USAA CIC”), will and hereby does move the Court for judgment on the pleadings, or in the alternative, to compel appraisal in favor of USAA CIC as to each cause of action against it in the First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) filed by Plaintiff John Sigler (“Plaintiff”).

This Motion is brought pursuant to Rule 12(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and the appraisal and other provisions of the Policy at issue on the ground that Plaintiff’s FAC fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

First, in an effort to avoid the appraisal requirements of the Policy, Plaintiff has conceded that USAA CIC’s valuation of his vehicle was correct, and the Court should hold that he is bound by that determination under the Policy. As a result, Plaintiff’s claims—all of which purport to challenge USAA CIC’s valuation of his vehicle as a total loss—fail to state a claim. Plaintiffs’ FAC therefore should be dismissed with prejudice as to USAA CIC.

Additionally, and independently, USAA CIC seeks dismissal of each of Plaintiff’s claims against it under FRCP 12(c) on the grounds that:

- (1) Plaintiff’s Second Cause of Action for Intentional Misrepresentation fails as a matter of law and is therefore subject to dismissal pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) because the applicable statute of limitations bars Plaintiff’s claims as against USAA CIC under California Code of Civil Procedure section 338(d), and otherwise fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because the FAC fails to allege a

1 misrepresentation on which Plaintiff justifiably relied, with resulting
2 harm.

3 (2) Plaintiff's Fifth Cause of Action for Violation of Section I of the
4 Sherman Act and Section IV of the Clayton Federal Act against USAA
5 CIC fails as a matter of law and is therefore subject to dismissal
6 pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) because Plaintiff does not have an Antitrust
7 Injury and therefore does not have standing under the Clayton Act to
8 bring a claim under Section I of the Sherman Act.

9 (3) Plaintiff's Sixth Cause of Action for Violation of the Civil Racketeer
10 Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO") fails as a matter
11 of law and is therefore subject to dismissal pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6)
12 because Plaintiff does not allege facts sufficiently and with the requisite
13 FRCP 9(b) particularity to support a RICO claim against USAA CIC.

14 Finally, at a minimum, as the Court previously recognized, appraisal is a
15 condition precedent to Plaintiff's suit under the plain terms of the Policy. (Dkt. 52.)
16 Despite Plaintiff's claims otherwise, his FAC has continued to dispute matters that
17 fall within the appraisal provisions of the Policy, and has refused to participate in
18 appraisal as contemplated by the Policy. Thus, if the Court does not dismiss the case
19 outright with prejudice as a result of this and other deficiencies, it should compel
20 appraisal, require Plaintiff to select a qualified appraiser other than himself and
21 dismiss (again) the lawsuit as to USAA CIC on this basis.

22 This Motion is based on this Notice, the attached Memorandum of Points and
23 Authorities, the pleadings in this action, the declarations of Vivian I. Orlando and
24 Melissa Ordell, and any other argument properly before the Court.

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1 This Motion is made following a conference of the parties pursuant to Local
2 Rule 7-3, which took place on December 20, 2023 in which the parties fully
3 discussed the substance of this Motion. Plaintiff has refused to amend his FAC or
4 dismiss any claims.

5
6 Dated: January 18, 2024

MAYNARD NEXSEN LLP

7
8 By: /s/ Vivian I. Orlando
9 VIVIAN I. ORLANDO
10 Attorneys for Defendant
11 USAA Casualty Insurance Company
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Through this lawsuit, Plaintiff John W. Sigler (“Plaintiff”) purports to challenge a “scheme” whereby Defendant USAA Casualty Insurance Company (“USAA CIC”) declared his vehicle total loss and offered to pay him \$10,000 instead of paying a body shop a lesser amount of money to repair Plaintiff’s vehicle. According to Plaintiff, this alleged scheme enriched USAA CIC to Plaintiff’s detriment. The Court previously granted USAA CIC’s motion for judgment on the pleadings and compelled—pursuant to the express terms of the Policy—Plaintiff to submit this dispute over the value of his vehicle to appraisal. Plaintiff refused that request and, in an effort to avoid the appraisal process, now concedes and accepts USAA CIC total loss valuation is correct.

Plaintiffs’ concession must mean one of two things, either of which entitle USAA CIC to judgment on the pleadings and/or dismissal for a second time. First, and most obviously, to extent that Plaintiff is still attempting to skirt the appraisal provision in violation of the Policy’s terms, the complaint must be dismissed. As the Court previously held, Plaintiff’s dispute concerns the valuation of his vehicle (including, amount of total loss (or repair)), must be submitted to appraisal under the Policy’s terms. Thus, to the extent that Plaintiff seeks to challenge USAA CIC’s determinations, his claims are subject to mandatory appraisal and must be dismissed.

But if Plaintiff truly concedes that USAA CIC’s valuation of his vehicle was correct, as he has stated as part of his effort to avoid appraisal, then that concession is fatal to Plaintiff’s claims. Each of Plaintiff’s causes of action against USAA CIC depend on the allegation that USAA CIC misrepresented information during the valuation process to Plaintiff’s detriment, but Plaintiff has foregone any reliance on the alleged misrepresentations by accepting USAA CIC’s valuation, and the determination of total loss. Indeed, as this Court previously recognized, Plaintiff’s initial Complaint raised nothing more than a dispute over the amount of loss, which

1 the Policy required Plaintiff to submit to appraisal as a condition precedent to
2 bringing suit against USAA CIC. (Dkt. 52.) Instead of participating in the appraisal
3 process, Plaintiff elected to agree with USAA CIC's valuation of his vehicle,
4 therefore *conceding* that his vehicle was correctly deemed a total loss under the
5 Policy. (See Dkt. 76 (hereinafter First Amended Complaint ("FAC"))) at Ex. A
6 (October 6, 2023 Letter from Plaintiff.) The causes of action in Plaintiff's FAC
7 each depend on the allegation that USAA CIC misrepresented information to USAA
8 CIC. (See FAC, Second, Fifth, and Sixth Causes of Actions against USAA CIC.)
9 But even taking Plaintiff's allegations as true, his concession makes clear that he (a)
10 is no longer alleging misrepresentations in USAA CIC's valuations; (b) has waived
11 any alleged detrimental reliance on USAA CIC's valuations; and (c) admitted he
12 suffered no injury as a result of any misrepresentation. Therefore, each of Plaintiff's
13 claims fail to state a claim against USAA CIC upon which relief can be granted.

14 Furthermore, and as USAA CIC detailed in its prior motion for judgment on
15 the pleadings, Plaintiff fails to state a claim for several additional reasons. First,
16 Plaintiff still fails to identify any misrepresentations by USAA CIC, or properly
17 allege his justifiable reliance on such misrepresentations. As a result, his cause of
18 action for intentional misrepresentation fails. It is also barred by the statute of
19 limitations. And Plaintiff's antitrust claim fails because Plaintiff has not identified
20 an antitrust injury sufficient to provide him standing to bring the cause of action.
21 Finally, Plaintiff's RICO claim fails for reasons previously identified by the Court.

22 Judgment on the pleadings is due to be entered for USAA CIC.

23 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

24 Plaintiff alleges that his vehicle was damaged in a collision in February 2020.
25 (FAC ¶1.) At the time, Plaintiff's 2013 Chevrolet Impala was a covered vehicle
26 under a policy issued to Plaintiff ending in 7101-7 to Plaintiff for the policy period
27 February 27, 2020 to August 27, 2020 (the "Policy"). (See concurrently filed
28 Declaration of Melissa Ordell ("Ordell Decl.") at ¶3, Ex. A at

1 USAA_SIGLER_000001-000061.) The Policy provides, in relevant part, that
2 USAA CIC will “pay for **loss** caused by collision.” (Ordell Decl., Ex. A at USAA-
3 SIGLER_000049.) “Loss” includes total loss and the “cost to repair or replace” the
4 covered vehicle to its pre-loss condition. (*Id.* USAA_SIGLER_000048.) Loss is
5 distinguished from the “actual cash value” of the vehicle, which is merely the cost
6 to “buy a comparable vehicle” at the time of loss. (*Id.*)

7 Plaintiff’s vehicle was towed to Defendant Imperial Body Shop (“IBS”) for
8 valuation of the damage. FAC ¶32. On March 10, 2020, IBS estimated the repairs
9 would cost \$9,775.68 (referred to in the FAC as the “Galvez” valuation). (FAC
10 ¶¶35, 36.) The March 11, 2020 letter indicated that USAA CIC had determined that
11 the actual cash value of the vehicle was \$8,437. (*Id.*) USAA CIC therefore deemed
12 the vehicle a “Total Loss” in accordance with the Policy, which provides:

13 **We will declare your covered auto to be a total loss if, in**
14 **our judgment, the cost to repair it would be greater that**
15 **its actual cash value minus its salvage value after the**
16 **loss.**

17 (Ordell Decl., Ex. A at USAA_SIGLER_000050.) The Galvez repair estimate
18 exceeded the actual cash value of the vehicle (even before subtracting salvage value)
19 by over \$1,300. USAA CIC offered Plaintiff a total loss settlement value, reflecting
20 the actual cash value of the vehicle plus sales tax, of \$9,238.52. (Ordell Decl. at ¶¶5,
21 6, Exhibit C.)

22 Plaintiff alleges that USAA CIC adjusted its valuation on two occasions after
23 he identified discrepancies in the Galvez estimate. (*See* FAC ¶¶46, 117.) First, on
24 March 27, 2020, USAA CIC sent Plaintiff an updated valuation dated March 23,
25 2020, which accounted for a sunroof and California emission equipment not
26 previously included. (Ordell Decl. at ¶8, Exhibit D.) USAA CIC estimated the
27 actual cash value of the vehicle with the additional features as \$8,872.00, **which was**
28 ***still far lower than the estimate repair cost.*** (*Id.*) As such, after adding sales tax,

1 USAA CIC offered Plaintiff a total loss settlement value of \$9,714.84, plus \$214.00.
2 (*Id.*) USAA CIC shared IBS' repair estimate with Plaintiff on March 27, 2020
3 (Ordell Decl. at ¶8, Exhibit D), and Plaintiff admitted in his original Complaint that
4 he had at least one repair estimate from IBS in March 2020, which he cannot
5 contradict now. (*See* (Dkt. 1 (Ex. A, Complaint, hereinafter "Compl.))) ¶45.)

6 Second, on March 31, 2020, USAA CIC again issued a revised valuation to
7 account for non-standard equipment provided by Plaintiff. (FAC ¶118.) Accounting
8 for the non-standard equipment, USAA CIC estimated the actual cash value as
9 \$8,990.00, *which was still far lower than the estimate repair cost* (even before
10 subtracting salvage value from actual cash value as required by the Policy). (Ordell
11 Decl., ¶¶9-10, Ex. E.) Therefore, after adding sales tax, fuel and other fees, USAA
12 CIC offered a final total loss settlement value of \$10,090.05. (*Id.* Ex. E)

13 Plaintiff refused this amount from USAA CIC, withdrew his claim, and asked
14 the driver's insurer, Defendant Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club (the
15 "Exchange"), for another estimate. The Exchange also used IBS to prepare a repair
16 estimate and determined the Vehicle is a total loss based on that repair estimate.
17 (FAC ¶¶48, 74.) Plaintiff rejected the Exchange's total loss settlement offer.

18 Plaintiff initially filed this lawsuit in November 2022. The initial Complaint
19 centered around an alleged conspiratorial scheme to create fraudulent undervalued
20 vehicle valuations. (Compl. ¶178.) USAA CIC moved for judgment on the
21 pleadings, and the Court granted USAA CIC's motion on July 3, 2023. (Dkt. 52.)
22 Specifically, the Court held that Plaintiff's claims were nothing more than a
23 challenge to USAA CIC's determination of the amount of Plaintiff's loss. (*Id.* at 5–
24 6.) And, because the Policy required Plaintiff to submit disputes over the amount of
25 loss to binding appraisal, his claims were "not ripe." (*Id.* at 6; *see* Ordell Decl. at
26 ¶3, Ex. A at USAA-SIGLER_000053.) The Court therefore granted USAA CIC's
27 motion for judgment on the pleadings, holding that "until an appraisal is completed,
28 it is impossible to know whether USAA CIC has fraudulently undervalued, or used

1 a fraudulent process to undervalue, the vehicle.” (Dkt. 52 at 6 (cleaned up).)

2 USAA CIC then attempted to schedule appraisal with Plaintiff. On July 11,
3 2023, USAA CIC identified an independent company it intended to use for the
4 appraisal. (*See* concurrently filed Declaration of Vivian I. Orlando (“Orlando
5 Decl.”), ¶¶9-10, Ex. 4.) Plaintiff, on the other hand, designated himself as the
6 appraiser. *Id.* On July 14, 2023, USAA CIC again offered to proceed with the
7 appraisal if Plaintiff wished to identify someone other than himself as the appraiser
8 (*id.*), but Plaintiff did not do so, and was not heard from again until October 6, 2023.
9 (*Id.*) At that point, on October 6, 2023, Plaintiff asserted that he was ***no longer***
10 ***contesting*** the “amount of loss” or valuation and therefore did not need to participate
11 in the appraisal process and could file suit. (Orlando Decl., ¶¶10–11, Ex. 4, 5.)

12 Plaintiff then filed the FAC, continuing to challenge USAA CIC’s valuation
13 of the vehicle as a total loss. Plaintiff now alleges that USAA CIC, the Exchange,
14 and IBS somehow profited by colluding to declare the vehicle a total loss and hide
15 the repairable nature of the vehicle from Plaintiff. (FAC ¶¶113, 187-188 & 200.)
16 Plaintiff’s intentional misrepresentation (Cause of Action II), Clayton Act (Cause of
17 Action V), and RICO (Causes of Action VI) claims flow from the allegation that
18 USAA CIC’s valuation was improper and based on misrepresentations that were
19 intentionally made to Plaintiff.

20 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

21 A motion for judgment on the pleadings should be granted “when there is no
22 issue of material fact in dispute, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a
23 matter of law.” *Fleming v. Pickard*, 581 F.3d 922, 925 (9th Cir. 2009). In deciding
24 a motion brought under Rule 12(c), in addition to the facts alleged in the Complaint,
25 and “without converting the motion to one for summary judgment, the Court
26 properly considers materials referred to in the complaint but not attached, such as
27 the full text of a document quoted only in part in the complaint, if the complaint
28 refers to the document, the document is central to the plaintiff’s claim, and no party

1 questions the authenticity of the copy attached to the motion....”
2 *Woods v. Asset Res.*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94325, *7, 2006 WL 3782704 (E.D.
3 Cal. Dec. 21, 2006) (citing and quoting *Branch v. Tunnell*, 14 F.3d 449, 454 (9th
4 Cir. 1994)).

5 Further, USAA CIC is permitted to rely upon the Policy and correspondence
6 evidencing USAA CIC’s demand for appraisal and Plaintiff’s refusal to participate
7 in the appraisal process. Based upon the allegations in the FAC and the Policy and
8 other documents referenced therein upon which USAA CIC may rely, as a matter of
9 law, USAA CIC is entitled to judgment on the pleadings as to each cause of action
10 asserted against it in the FAC.

11 **IV. LEGAL ARGUMENT**

12 Plaintiff has conceded his vehicle was not repairable under the plain terms of
13 the Policy. If this concession is construed as an attempt to avoid the appraisal
14 process—as it must be—then the Court should again compel Plaintiff to participate
15 in appraisal. However, taking Plaintiff at his word that he accepts USAA CIC’s
16 valuation of the vehicle, Plaintiff bound himself to the valuation he purports to
17 challenge in this action. That valuation properly resulted in a total loss determination
18 under the Policy, and Plaintiff’s claims fail. Therefore, the FAC fails to state a claim
19 against USAA CIC.

20 **A. Plaintiff has Still Not Participated in the Appraisal Process**

21 Despite the Court’s Order compelling appraisal pursuant to the Policy,
22 Plaintiff refused to submit his valuation dispute to appraisal. For that reasons, the
23 Court should again grant USAA CIC’s judgment on the pleadings and dismiss this
24 action with prejudice for the failure to participate in the appraisal process or,
25 alternatively, to compel appraisal again and dismiss the action for a second time.

26 On July 3, 2023, the Court granted USAA CIC’s motion for judgment on the
27 pleadings on Plaintiff’s first complaint, holding that “[t]he policy’ appraisal
28 provision encompasses the dispute at issue.” (Dkt. 52 at 5.) Each of Plaintiff’s

1 claims, the Court explained, were “derivative of a disagreement with USAA CIC over
2 the valuation of his vehicle.” (*Id.*) Thus, the Court refused to “allow Sigler to skirt
3 the terms of his agreement with USAA CIC” by pleading causes of action that
4 Plaintiff contended did not arise out of a dispute over valuation. (*Id.* at 6.) The
5 Court therefore dismissed Plaintiff’s claims pending his “[c]ompliance with the
6 appraisal provision.” (*Id.* at 7.)

7 As detailed above, Plaintiff has since reaffirmed his refusal to submit his
8 claims to appraisal. (*See* Orlando Decl. ¶¶10-11, Exs. 4, 5.) In an effort to feign
9 compliance, Plaintiff stated that instead of submitted to appraisal, Plaintiff now
10 accepts the valuation of his vehicle provided by USAA CIC on March 31, 2020.
11 USAA CIC demonstrates below that this concession is fatal to Plaintiff’s claims.
12 But, in the event Plaintiff opposes USAA CIC’s motion on the ground that he has
13 not actually accepted USAA CIC’s valuation, the Court must again grant USAA
14 CIC’s motion for judgment on the pleadings or appraisal because Plaintiff has failed
15 to satisfy the appraisal provision, which is a pre-requisite to any lawsuit. (Ordell
16 Decl., Ex. A at USAA_SIGLER_000053, 000056.) Plaintiff did not “select a
17 competent appraiser,” no umpire was selected, and no decision was reached or
18 agreed to. (*Id.* at USAA_SIGLER_000053; Orlando Decl. ¶¶10-11, Exs. 4, 5.) And
19 Plaintiff cannot demonstrate that his claims no longer challenge the valuation of the
20 vehicle. As explained in detail below, each of Plaintiff’s causes of action depend on
21 the propriety of USAA CIC’s valuation of his vehicle. As it stands, that valuation
22 has not been properly appraised as required by the Policy. Therefore, at a minimum,
23 USAA CIC is entitled to judgment on the pleadings or an order compelling appraisal
24 and dismissal for the same reasons the Court previously recognized.

25 **B. The FAC Fails to State a Claim Because Plaintiff has Conceded**
26 **that USAA CIC Properly Valued His Vehicle as a Total Loss**

27 Plaintiff’s concession also demonstrates that his claims fail as a matter of law.
28 Each of Plaintiff’s claims against USAA CIC depend on the allegedly faulty

1 valuation by USAA CIC. In support of Plaintiff's intentional misrepresentation
2 claim (Count II), Plaintiff alleges that "[t]he primary act of fraud" was USAA CIC's
3 "false representation that the Plaintiff's vehicle was a total loss." (FAC ¶113.)
4 Plaintiff's antitrust claim (Count V) depends on the allegation that USAA and the
5 Exchange agreed to provide Plaintiff the same allegedly erroneous total loss
6 valuation. (*Id.* ¶¶181, 187.) And the alleged enterprise at the heart of Plaintiff's
7 RICO claim (Count VI) "falsified appraisals and repair estimates in order to falsely
8 classify the Plaintiff's vehicle as totaled." (*Id.* ¶198.) The central premise of the
9 FAC is Plaintiff's allegation that USAA CIC improperly (*i.e.*, intentionally,
10 fraudulently) deemed his vehicle a total loss.

11 But the FAC fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because
12 Plaintiff has conceded that USAA CIC properly valued the loss. On October 6, 2023,
13 after refusing to participate in the appraisal process ordered by the Court, Plaintiff
14 explained that he "no longer . . . disagree[d] on the amount of loss states by USAA."
15 (FAC Ex. A.) Plaintiff specifically referred to the loss amounts stated in USAA
16 CIC's March 31, 2020 letter, and stated that he "agree[d] on this valuation." (*Id.*)
17 That letter unambiguously states that Plaintiff's vehicle was a total loss under the
18 Policy. (*See* Ordell Decl., Ex. E at USAA-SIGLER_000733.)

19 Under the Policy, a vehicle is a "total loss if, in [USAA CIC's] judgment, the
20 cost to **repair** it would be **greater** than its **actual cash value** minus its **salvage value**
21 after the **loss**." (Ordell Decl., Ex. A at USAA-SIGLER_000050.) So, if USAA CIC
22 determined that the actual cash value *itself* was less than the estimated repair cost,
23 the vehicle was properly deemed a total loss. And, in fact, USAA CIC at all times—
24 even in the March 31, 2020 valuation Plaintiff has conceded is correct—determined
25 that repair costs exceeded actual cash value. The March 31, 2020 valuation stated
26 an actual cash value of **\$8,990.00**. (Ordell Decl., Ex. E at USAA-SIGLER_000733.)
27 Even accepting Plaintiff's "repair cost" of \$9,223.68 [FAC ¶122], Plaintiff's vehicle
28 was still a total loss by nearly \$300. And, after deducting the salvage value from

1 actual cash value as directed by the Policy, the repair cost exceeds the vehicle's value
2 by even more. Therefore, because Plaintiff has conceded that his vehicle was a total
3 loss under the express terms of the Policy, each of his causes of action fail to state a
4 claim upon which relief can be granted. *See Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266
5 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir.) (a plaintiff can “plead himself out of a claim by including
6 unnecessary details” and incorporating exhibits “contrary to his claims”); *Alamilla*
7 *v. Hain Celestial Grp., Inc.*, 30 F. Supp. 3d 943, 944 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (where
8 documents incorporated into a complaint “contradict the allegation upon which
9 [plaintiff’s] entire complaint hinges,” the complaint is properly dismissed).

10 Plaintiff attempts to side-step this straightforward conclusion by conflating
11 USAA CIC’s total loss settlement offers and the “fair market valuation of the
12 vehicle,” suggesting that USAA CIC fraudulently concealed that the vehicle’s “fair
13 market valu[e]” exceeded the repair costs. (FAC ¶¶114, 126–27.) But the Policy
14 predicates total loss on a finding that the repair costs exceeds the **actual cash value**
15 minus the salvage value of the vehicle. *See Foadpour v. Hartford Life & Accident*
16 *Ins. Co.*, 2014 WL 12966431, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2014) (in deciding motion
17 for judgment on the pleadings, Court is “not required to accept as true allegations
18 that contradict exhibits attached to the Complaint” (quoting *Daniels–Hall v.*
19 *National Educ. Ass’n*, 629 F.3d 992, 998 (9th Cir. 2010))). And the Policy does not
20 use the term “fair market valuation” at all. At all times, even after USAA CIC
21 revised its valuation as directed by Plaintiff, the actual cash value of the vehicle was
22 less than the repair cost. The March 31, 2020 valuation—which Plaintiff **agrees**
23 **with**—clearly states that the “[v]ehicle’s actual cash value” was \$8,990.00. (Ordell
24 Decl., Ex. E at USAA-SIGLER_000733.) And the March 31, 2020 valuation clearly
25 states that the total loss settlement offer amount is **not** the same as actual cash value.
26 The settlement valuation (\$10,090.05) includes taxes, fees and extras that **are in**
27 **addition to** actual cash value. (*Id.*) USAA CIC at no time represented that the actual
28 cash value of the vehicle—which is the **only** value relevant to the total loss

determination—was greater than \$8,990.00. Plaintiff has either misinterpreted the Policy or misinterpreted USAA CIC’s total loss settlement offers, or both. But the Court need not accept Plaintiff’s allegations over the plain words of the documents from which his allegations are drawn. *See Daniels-Hall*, 629 F.3d at 999. These documents make clear that USAA CIC’s unchallenged total loss determination was correct. And, because each of Plaintiff’s claims depend on the validity of USAA CIC’s valuation, judgment should be entered in USAA CIC’s favor for this reason alone.

C. Even if Plaintiff Properly Challenges USAA CIC’s Valuation, the FAC Fails to State a Claim

At the outset, USAA CIC contends that each of the causes of action asserted by Plaintiff fail because he either failed to properly submit his claims to appraisal, or because his concession regarding the appropriate valuation of his vehicle is fatal to his claims. Plaintiff has no continuing claim for relief based on a valuation that he has agreed to be bound by. Each of the causes of action addressed below depend on the allegation that USAA CIC improperly valued his loss, and therefore these causes of action fail to state a claim. Nonetheless, USAA CIC demonstrates below that even if Plaintiff had some surviving challenge to USAA CIC’s valuation, the FAC fails to state a claim for intentional misrepresentation, fails to allege an antitrust violation, and a fails to state a claim under RICO.

1. *Plaintiff’s intentional misrepresentation claim is barred by the statute of limitations.*

Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 338(d), Plaintiff’s intentional fraud claim is barred by the three-year statute of limitations. The Court previously dismissed Plaintiff’s claims against USAA CIC without prejudice. (Dkt. 52.) Dismissal of a case without prejudice, for statute of limitations purposes, erases any tolling as if the case never existed for the named plaintiffs. *See Georgescu v. Bechtel Const., Inc.*, 15 F.3d 1085, 1085 (9th Cir. 1994) (“Because the court’s

1 dismissal of [Plaintiff's] original complaint without prejudice did not toll the statute
2 of limitations the second complaint was time barred by the ninety-day statute of
3 limitations."); *Humphreys v. United States*, 272 F.2d 411, 412 (9th Cir. 1959) ("[A]
4 **suit dismissed without prejudice ... leaves the situation the same as if the suit**
5 **had never been brought in the first place.**") (emphasis added). The Court
6 dismissed USAA CIC without prejudice on July 3, 2023. (Dkt. 52.) In the meantime,
7 the statute of limitations ran on Plaintiff's fraud claim.

8 Plaintiff alleges misrepresentations by USAA CIC in March 2020, more than
9 three years before the FAC was filed. When Plaintiff received the March 31, 2020
10 letter, Plaintiff knew or should have known that, under his theory, his vehicle was
11 incorrectly claimed to be a total loss. That statute of limitations expired on or before
12 March 31, 2023. Plaintiff did not file his FAC against USAA CIC until October 9,
13 2023. And, although Plaintiff claims later discovery, Plaintiff's pleading contradicts
14 this allegation as Plaintiff admits he had a copy of the Exchange's IBS repair
15 estimate in March 2020. (FAC ¶185.) Plaintiff's admission comports with his
16 admission in ¶45 of his original Complaint, which he cannot now contradict. And
17 because the March 23, 2020 repair estimate was \$9,654.78, [FAC ¶143], which is
18 \$500 less than what Plaintiff claims is the fair market value in the March 31, 2020
19 valuation, Plaintiff was on notice on March 31, 2020 that, under his theory of the
20 case, his car was not a total loss. *See Fox v. Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.*, 35 Cal.4th
21 797, 807 (2005) ("plaintiff has reason to discover a cause of action when he or she
22 has reason at least to suspect a factual basis for its elements."); *Vera v. REL-BC,*
23 *LLC*, 66 Cal.App.5th 57, 69 (2021), *review denied* (Oct. 13, 2021) ("[I]t has long
24 been settled that actual knowledge is not necessary. . . . The statute of limitations
25 begins to run when the plaintiff has *information which would put a reasonable*
26 *person on inquiry.* Wrong and wrongdoing in this context are understood in
27 their lay and not legal senses."). Therefore, Plaintiff's claim for intentional
28 misrepresentation is barred by the statute of limitations.

1 **2. Plaintiff failed to identify misrepresentations by USAA CIC**
2 **that he relied on to his detriment.**

3 Under California law, “[t]he essential elements of a count for intentional
4 misrepresentation are (1) a misrepresentation, (2) knowledge of falsity, (3) intent to
5 induce reliance, (4) actual and justifiable reliance, and (5) resulting damage.”
6 *Chapman v. Skype Inc.*, 220 Cal. App. 4th 217, 230–31 (2013). FRCP 9(b) imposes
7 a heightened pleading standard for fraud whereby a party must “state with
8 particularity the circumstances constituting fraud or mistake.” Here, Plaintiff has
9 alleged not actionable misrepresentations with sufficient particularity, nor could he
10 demonstrate actual or justifiable reliance on any misrepresentations or resulting
11 damage.

12 First, the majority of the alleged misrepresentations identified in the FAC
13 cannot be attributed to USAA CIC because they were included in the valuation
14 reports Plaintiff alleges were created by Galvez, an employee of IBS. (FAC ¶¶113,
15 115, 116, 119, 122.) Plaintiff does not allege that USAA CIC created the reports, or
16 that a representative of USAA CIC “doctored” a repair estimate. (*Id.* ¶124.) To the
17 contrary, he alleged that USAA CIC relied on IBS to prepare the valuation. (*Id.*
18 ¶115.) In fact, the FAC demonstrates that when alerted to these alleged
19 misrepresentations, USAA CIC promptly took action to correct its own valuations
20 and explain the errors to Plaintiff. (*Id.* ¶117, 126.) Because Plaintiff fails to impute
21 the errors made by Galvez to USAA CIC [*see id.* ¶131], Plaintiff’s intentional
22 misrepresentation claim fails as a matter of law to the extent he relies on errors in
23 the reports created by IBS.

24 Second, the FAC demonstrates that the representations properly attributed to
25 USAA CIC were not misrepresentations. For one thing, it was not a
26 misrepresentation for USAA CIC to inform Plaintiff that it had “sent [Plaintiff]
27 information about the total loss of your vehicle.” (FAC ¶121.) This statement was
28 factually correct, as demonstrated by Plaintiff’s own allegations. Each of the letters

1 containing this statement undoubtedly contained “information about the total loss of
2 [Plaintiff’s] vehicle.” Further, for the reasons set forth above, it was not a
3 misrepresentation for USAA CIC to state that Plaintiff’s vehicle was a total loss.
4 Nor is there any merit to Plaintiff’s allegation that USAA CIC “withheld” any
5 reports from Plaintiff, as each communication from USAA CIC attached the
6 valuation reports that formed the basis for USAA CIC’s settlement offer. (*See* Ordell
7 Decl., Exs. C, D, E.) Therefore, Plaintiff has failed to allege any misrepresentations
8 by USAA CIC.

9 Third, USAA CIC did not misrepresent anything to Plaintiff by not offering
10 to repair his vehicle. Plaintiff suggests that USAA CIC was required to “provide[]
11 the option of having the vehicle repair,” but instead USAA CIC deceived him into
12 believing his vehicle was a total loss. (FAC ¶120.) Even if Plaintiff’s vehicle had
13 been repairable, the Policy expressly gives USAA CIC the *option* to “pay for loss in
14 money” or “repair or replace the [vehicle].” (Ordell Decl., Ex. A, at USAA-
15 SIGLER_000051.) The Policy does not provide Plaintiff the right to dictate how
16 USAA CIC makes a claim payment—whether in cash or services. It was not a
17 misrepresentation for USAA CIC not to provide Plaintiff with the option to have his
18 car repaired.

19 Fourth, even if Plaintiff had satisfied all other elements of an intentional
20 misrepresentation claim, Plaintiff does not sufficiently allege reliance. Plaintiff must
21 allege facts showing he detrimentally changed his position in actual and justifiable
22 reliance on the misrepresentation or omission. *See Cadlo v. Owens-Illinois, Inc.*,
23 125 Cal. App. 4th 513, 519 (2004) (“The mere assertion of ‘reliance’ is insufficient.
24 The plaintiff must allege the specifics of his or her reliance on the misrepresentation
25 to show a bona fide claim”); *Beckwith v. Dahl*, 205 Cal. App. 4th 1039, 1062
26 (2012) (“There are two causation elements in a fraud action. First, the plaintiff’s
27 actual and justifiable reliance on the defendant’s misrepresentation must have caused
28 him to take a detrimental course of action. Second, the detrimental action taken by

1 the plaintiff must have caused his alleged damage.”).

2 The FAC confirms Plaintiff *did not rely* on USAA CIC’s alleged
3 misrepresentations. Plaintiff did not “detrimentally rely” on the valuation reports or
4 USAA CIC’s statements regarding the loss to his vehicle. Rather, Plaintiff refuted
5 the valuations, asked for an amended appraisal, and USAA CIC provided amended
6 appraisals. (*See* Ordell Decl., Exs. C-E.) That Plaintiff eventually rejected USAA
7 CIC’s offer does not demonstrate that he detrimentally relied on USAA CIC’s
8 representations—to the contrary, Plaintiff *did not accept* “an unreasonably low
9 settlement offer,” as he suggests. (FAC ¶10.) Plaintiff instead canceled his claim
10 and chose to take his car and go home.¹ The fact that Plaintiff refuted USAA CIC’s
11 offers, complained to USAA CIC, received adjusted offers addressing his
12 complaints, and then sued USAA CIC prove that he did not rely on the purported
13 representations. The FAC similarly establishes that Plaintiff did not rely on USAA
14 CIC’s statements regarding the source of the inaccuracies in USAA CIC’s initial
15 offer. By Plaintiff’s own admission, he discovered the VIN report did not omit these
16 items a mere “90 minutes after” their conversation. (*See* Compl. ¶101; FAC ¶46.)

17 Finally, Plaintiff’s failure to adequately plead intentional misrepresentation is
18 magnified by his concession that USAA CIC’s valuation was proper. Plaintiff will
19 never be able to demonstrate that he was damaged by misrepresentations that
20 resulted in the *correct* valuation of his vehicle. In other words, even if USAA CIC
21 affirmatively misrepresented information to Plaintiff, and even if he justifiably relief
22 on that misrepresentation, Plaintiff agrees that USAA CIC arrived at the right
23 valuation of his vehicle nonetheless. Therefore, Plaintiff sustained no damages as a
24 result of any misrepresentation by USAA CIC. Accordingly, the FAC is devoid of
25 any facts plausibly demonstrating any actionable misrepresentation by USAA CIC,
26

27
28 ¹ Given this conduct, Plaintiff will never be able to demonstrate that he appropriately mitigated his own damages.

1 and judgment must be granted in USAA CIC's favor on Plaintiff's Second Cause of
2 Action.

3 **3. Plaintiff's antitrust claim fails as a matter of law.**

4 Plaintiff alleges that USAA CIC, the Exchange, and IBS (along with
5 individuals who have not yet appeared or have been dismissed) engaged in a
6 "criminal" violation of the Sherman Act, Section 1, 15 U.S.C. § 1, because he claims
7 they intentionally "price fix[ed] / bid rigg[ed]" valuations intending to cause damage
8 to Plaintiff's business and property. (FAC ¶180.) Plaintiff contends that he asked
9 the Exchange an independent, competitive bid, but that its similar (though not
10 identical) valuation robbed him of that opportunity. (FAC ¶¶181, 188.) Plaintiff's
11 allegation at its core is that he sought a second opinion on the valuation of the
12 damaged vehicle and USAA CIC and the Exchange predetermined the value of
13 Plaintiff's vehicle, robbing him of the opportunity for a "competitive settlement
14 offer." (FAC ¶48.) That claim is both factually and legally flawed because Plaintiff
15 has not (and cannot) allege a restraint of trade barred by the Clayton Act or Sherman
16 Act, and Plaintiff lacks standing to pursue a claim under the Clayton Act.

17 Specifically, Plaintiff lacks antitrust standing because he has not alleged the
18 type of injury prohibited by antitrust law, let alone that he was injured at all by the
19 USAA CIC's alleged conduct. Antitrust standing is distinguishable from Article III
20 standing. *See Tawfilis v. Allergan, Inc.*, 157 F. Supp. 3d 853, 862–63 (C.D. Cal.
21 2015). Section 4 of the Clayton Act authorizes the award of damages under the
22 antitrust laws to "any person . . . injured in his business or property by reason of
23 anything forbidden in the antitrust laws." 15 U.S.C. § 15(a); *Am. Ad Mgmt., Inc. v.*
24 *Gen. Tel. Co. of Cal.*, 190 F.3d 1051, 1054 (9th Cir. 1999). Taken literally, this
25 provision could provide a cause of action to any person able to trace an injury to an
26 antitrust violation. *Id.* However, "[t]he Supreme Court has interpreted that section
27 narrowly, thereby constraining the class of parties that have statutory standing to
28 recover damages through antitrust suits." *Del. Valley Surgical Supply Inc. v.*

1 *Johnson & Johnson*, 523 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2008) (citing *Illinois Brick v.*
2 *Illinois*, 431 U.S. 720 (1977)). As a result, a “plaintiff who satisfies the
3 constitutional requirement of injury in fact is not necessarily a proper party to bring
4 a private antitrust action.” *Am. Ad Mgmt.*, 157 F.Supp.3d. at 1054 n.3. To evaluate
5 antitrust standing, courts consider: (1) the nature of the plaintiff’s alleged injury; that
6 is, whether it is the type the antitrust laws were intended to forestall; (2) the
7 directness of the injury; (3) the speculative measure of the harm; (4) the risk of
8 duplicative recovery; and (5) the complexity in apportioning damages. *Amarel v.*
9 *Connell*, 102 F.3d 1494, 1507 (9th Cir. 1996).

10 Plaintiff alleges two injuries, neither of which relate to unfair competition.
11 Plaintiff first contends that he suffered an injury by having to pursue this lawsuit,
12 causing him to incur costs and requiring him to devote time to his pursuit of
13 recovery. (FAC ¶191(c), (d).) Plaintiff second contends that USAA CIC and the
14 Exchange’s alleged communications deprived him of the “[l]oss of a fair and
15 competitive offer” for his damaged Vehicle, which resulted in additional incurred
16 charges that would have been avoided had USAA CIC deemed his Vehicle
17 repairable. (FAC ¶191(a), (b).) Neither are allegations of antitrust injury resulting
18 from conduct the antitrust laws proscribe.

19 In fact, Plaintiff fails to allege an injury resulting from any activity unrelated
20 to his own experience giving rise to this lawsuit. Plaintiff alleges that he was not the
21 “direct target” of the “scheme” underlying his antitrust claims, but the allegations of
22 the FAC undermine that suggestion. (FAC ¶192.) Plaintiff relies *only* on alleged
23 communications related to *his pursuit* of a valuation from USAA CIC and the
24 Exchange. And the injuries he relies on concern only *his* loss of so-called
25 “competitive” bid. Plaintiff does not allege that his injuries “result[ed] from
26 monopoly power or unreasonable restraint of trade.” *Sheahan v. State Farm Gen.*
27 *Ins. Co.*, 442 F. Supp. 3d 1178, 1195 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (no antitrust injury where
28 insurer was alleged to have coordinated with a vendor to suppress replacement

1 values). Rather, Plaintiff’s alleged injuries concern routine communication between
2 non-competitors that resulted in no market harm. Plaintiff does not allege an
3 industry-wide practice that deprived him of an opportunity to receive a more
4 accurate valuation. *Id.* at 1194. In fact, Plaintiff was free to get an independent
5 repair quote from an automotive mechanic of his choice and was free to research the
6 value of his vehicle. Plaintiff instead confined his options to USAA CIC and the
7 Exchange, thereby artificially creating a “market of two” that he now intends to
8 challenge as anti-competitive. Even if Plaintiff had identified anticompetitive
9 behavior, the antitrust laws do not prohibit anticompetitive conduct in markets
10 artificially created by plaintiffs. Plaintiff was not deprived of a competitive offer in
11 a way that resulted in an antitrust injury.

12 Because Plaintiff has failed to allege an antitrust injury, his claim fails for lack
13 of standing. But even if he had, Plaintiff’s claim fails because he has failed to
14 identify a concerted action in restraint of trade. Section 1 of the Sherman Act
15 prohibits “[e]very contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or
16 conspiracy, in restraint of trade.” 15 U.S.C. § 1. The law is well-settled that parallel
17 conduct alone will not support an inference of concerted action.” *Workman v. State*
18 *Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 520 F. Supp. 610, 617 (N.D. Cal. 1981). “Only where the
19 pattern of action undertaken is *not consistent with the self-interest of the individual*
20 *actors*” does parallel conduct support an inference of concerted action. *Id.* (emphasis
21 added). Simply obtaining “market information from competitors, when undertaken
22 without any agreement or understanding regarding reciprocity, does not raise
23 antitrust concerns, since it fosters, rather than hinders, competition.” *Id.* at 618.

24 Plaintiff alleges nothing more than an isolated instance of information sharing
25 to support his antitrust claim, but that allegation fails to support a pattern of
26 concerted action in restraint of trade. For one thing, as mentioned previously,
27 Plaintiff alleges that he was singled out by USAA CIC and the Exchange—he does
28 not allege a scheme to affect other insureds. Further, Plaintiff fails to demonstrate

1 that the Exchange and USAA CIC are in competition for payment of the claim, such
2 that undervaluing Plaintiff's vehicle is inconsistent with their self-interest. Nor
3 would that allegation make sense, in any event. USAA CIC has no incentive to deem
4 Plaintiff's vehicle a total loss, or to prevent another insurer from valuing the Vehicle
5 higher. This matter did not involve any actual "competitive" offers. Therefore,
6 Plaintiff fails to allege a concerted action in restraint of trade, and his claim fails.

7 **4. Plaintiff's RICO claim fails as a matter of law.**

8 Plaintiff alleges that USAA CIC, the Exchange, and IBS are engaged in a
9 racketeering enterprise "with the goal of minimizing claims payouts to Plaintiff
10 resulting from the auto accident caused by Jorge Gonzalez" by falsifying settlement
11 offers, appraisals, and repair estimates to "falsely classify the Plaintiff's vehicle as
12 totaled." (FAC ¶198.) To attempt to show a pattern of racketeering, as to USAA
13 CIC, Plaintiff claims predicate acts primarily related to the valuation of his vehicle
14 or other lawsuits Plaintiff found on the internet that may involve some USAA entity
15 or USAA CIC but are wholly unrelated to this case in every other way. (FAC ¶¶204-
16 210.) None of these categories create a pattern sufficient to support a RICO claim.

17 The Court previously recognized that Plaintiff's predicate acts do not support
18 a RICO claim. In dismissing Plaintiff's Complaint in September 2023, the District
19 Court explained to Plaintiff the types of activities that satisfy the "Pattern of
20 Racketeering" element. "The Supreme Court has cautioned that 'whether predicate
21 acts establish a threat of continued racketeering activity depends on the specific facts
22 of each case.'" (Dkt. 73 at 10 (quoting *H.J., Inc. v. Nw. Bell Tel. Co.*, 492 U.S. 229,
23 242 (1989)).) The Court then provided a half-page block quote describing the
24 neighborhood "hoodlum" who offers "insurance" to local shops. (*Id.*) "This case,
25 as currently pled, [still] does not look like these examples." (*Id.* at 11.) Indeed, as
26 to category (i), above, the Court's Order equally applies now:

27 Even though Plaintiff alleges multiple predicate acts,
28 "[t]his case involve[s] but a single alleged fraud [on the

1 part of each Defendant] with a single victim. All of
2 [Defendants'] assertions about [the allegedly fraudulent
3 appraisals] ... were parts of [a] single effort [by each
4 Defendant] to induce" Plaintiff to accept an offer that did
5 not fully compensate Plaintiff for his losses. *Medallion*
6 *Television Enterprises, Inc. v. SelecTV of California, Inc.*,
7 833 F.2d 1360, 1363–64 (9th Cir. 1987). The few alleged
8 predicate acts—committed over the course of two
9 weeks—constitute the entire scheme and do not form a
10 continuous pattern.

11 (*Id.* at 11.)

12 This remains true now, as Plaintiff has not made any additional allegations in
13 the FAC of additional predicate acts, particularly against anyone other than Plaintiff.
14 Plaintiff remains the sole alleged victim and this derives from one claim on his single
15 Vehicle.²

16 Plaintiff also misplaces his reliance on other purported but partially identified
17 cases (and alleged complaints and purported testimony in those cases) that cannot
18 be used to support his claims in this case. First, even if Plaintiff requests in this case
19 judicial notice of the complaints upon which he relies, they are not the proper subject
20 of judicial notice. Second, even as alleged, these purported other matters do not
21 involve the same line of insurance, are not California cases and do not involve any
22 of the individuals or other defendants Plaintiff identifies in his FAC. Plaintiff cannot
23 use these other cases to meet the pleading requirements for *his* fraud or RICO claims.
24 In fact, in the cases he cites, the valuations were lowered following the initial
25 valuation, which is exactly the opposite of what happened here. Plaintiff asserts
26 allegations that other, unidentified, individuals were and will be affected by the

27 ² To the extent that Plaintiff added allegations of predicate acts arising out of actions
28 taken in this litigation (category (ii)) in an apparent effort to extend the timeframe,
his claims are specious and refutable and do not qualify as predicate acts.

1 alleged scheme, but such allegations are insufficient to allege a “pattern of
2 racketeering activity” as required by FRCP 9(b). *See Higgins v. Farr Fin. Inc.*, No.
3 C 07-02200 JSW, 2009 WL 3517597 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2009) (holding that
4 plaintiff’s conclusory allegations that other unidentified individuals were affected
5 by conclusory allegations insufficient to allege pattern of racketeering activity).
6 These other cases also cannot support the pleading of a predicate act for purposes of
7 RICO because they do not involve any of the same alleged actors and therefore, are
8 not examples of an “Associate-In-Fact” Enterprise. *See Doan v. Singh*, 617 F. App’x
9 684, 686 (9th Cir. 2015) (“To allege an association-in-fact, the complaint must
10 describe...evidence that the various associates function as a continuing unit.”
11 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted)). Thus, Plaintiff has not met the
12 pattern of racketeering element and his RICO claim fails.

13 Plaintiff’s RICO claim also fails because he cannot satisfy the racketeering
14 element. Plaintiff asserts as predicate acts that USAA CIC committed wire fraud
15 and extortion.³ Notably, when the predicate acts sound in fraud, the complaint must
16 meet the particularized pleading requirements of FRCP 9(b). *See Lancaster Cmty.*
17 *Hosp. v. Antelope Valley Hosp. Dist.*, 940 F.2d 397, 405 (9th Cir. 1991). In other
18 words, the complaint must state the time, place, and specific content of the false
19 representations as well as the identities of the parties to the misrepresentation. *See*
20 *Edwards v. Marin Park, Inc.*, 356 F.3d 1058, 1065-66 (9th Cir. 2004). To establish
21 wire fraud, a plaintiff must generally establish that:

22 “(1) the defendants formed a scheme or artifice to defraud; (2) the
23 defendants used the United States mails [or wires] or caused a use

24
25 ³ Notably, in opposition to the Exchange’s motion for judgment on the pleadings,
26 [Dkt. 109], Plaintiff has demonstrated another reason his RICO claim fails against
27 USAA CIC. Specifically, Plaintiff admits that to establish the requisite continuity
28 for a pattern of racketeering, he must allege racketeering activities over a sufficient
period of time. *Id.* at 22 (Plaintiff acknowledging he must allege a pattern of
activities over “one year”). USAA CIC’s alleged racketeering activities *do not*
satisfy the continuity standard because Plaintiff makes no allegation against USAA
CIC outside of a **one month** period in 2020.

1 of the United States mails [or wires] in furtherance of the scheme;
2 and (3) the defendants did so with the specific intent to deceive or
3 defraud.”

4 *Miller v. Yokohama Tire Corp.*, 358 F.3d 616, 620 (9th Cir. 2004) (quoting *Schreiber*
5 *Distrib. Co. v. Serv-Well Furniture Co.*, 806 F.2d 1393, 1400 (9th Cir. 1986)). But
6 Plaintiff has not alleged a single claim as to any other party with the requisite
7 particularity (or as to him at all) and, thus cannot support an allegation of fraud.⁴

8 Plaintiff also has not shown the existence of an enterprise because the facts do
9 not indicate that USAA CIC, the Exchange and Imperial “acted with an objective
10 unrelated to ordinary business.” *In re Jamster Mktg. Litig.*, No. 05CV0819 JM
11 (CAB), 2009 WL 1456632, at *5 (S.D. Cal. May 22, 2009) (finding RICO claims
12 were not adequately pleaded because, after plaintiff’s legal conclusions were set
13 aside, all that remained was “conduct consistent with ordinary business conduct and
14 an ordinary business purpose.”). “[C]ourts have overwhelmingly rejected attempts
15 to characterize routine commercial relationships as RICO enterprises.” *Shaw v.*
16 *Nissan N. Am., Inc.*, 220 F. Supp. 3d 1046, 1054 (C.D. Cal. 2016).

17 In short, USAA CIC’s valuation of Plaintiff’s vehicle did not form a criminal
18 enterprise and was not an act of racketeering and Plaintiff’s RICO therefore fails.

19 **V. CONCLUSION**

20 For the foregoing reasons, USAA CIC respectfully requests this Court grant
21 its Motion.

22 Dated: January 18, 2024

MAYNARD NEXSEN LLP

23

24

25

26

27

28

By: /s/ Vivian I. Orlando
VIVIAN I. ORLANDO
Attorneys for Defendant
USAA Casualty Insurance Company

⁴ Plaintiff’s allegations of extortion are likewise useless to save his RICO claim because they all relate to him and therefore provide no evidence of a pattern.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH L.R. 11-6.1

The undersigned, counsel of record for USAA Casualty Insurance Company, certifies that this brief contains 6,987 words (excluding the notice, caption, any table of contents, any table of authorities, the signature block, this certification, and any indices and exhibits), which complies with the 7,000 word limit of Local Rule 11-6.1.

Dated: January 18, 2024

MAYNARD NEXSEN LLP

By: /s/ Vivian I. Orlando
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

John W. Sigler v. Jorge Gonzalez, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, et al.
Case No. 8:22-cv-02325-CJC-JDEx

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am a citizen of the United States and employed in Los Angeles, California, at the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction this service was made. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within actions; my business address is 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 550, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

On **January 18, 2024**, I served the document(s) entitled, **DEFENDANT USAA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY'S MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS ON PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO COMPEL APPRAISAL** on the interested parties in this action by placing true copies thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope(s) addressed as stated below:

☒ **(BY MAIL):** I deposited such envelope in the mail at Los Angeles, California with postage fully prepaid. I am readily familiar with this firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be placed for collection and mailing, and deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California, in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than 1 day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

☒ **(BY ELECTRONIC MAIL):** By transmitting a true copy thereof to the electronic mail addresses as indicated below.

and telephone number as stated.

☒ **(BY CM/ECF SERVICE):** I caused such document(s) to be delivered electronically via CM/ECF as noted herein.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the above is true and correct and was executed on **January 18, 2024**, at Los Angeles, California.



Lea Borys

SERVICE LIST

John W. Sigler v. Jorge Gonzalez, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, et al.
Case No. 8:22-cv-02325-CJC-JDEx

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